Policy for garments for 1987 was announced in October, 1986 and is working satisfactorily with increased exports. Any changes, if considered necessary, will be incorporated in the next year's Policy.

Forest cover

474. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the forest cover in the country at the beginning of 1980;

(b) what was the position at the end of 1986; and

(c) what are the reasons for reduction in the coverage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to the National Remote Sensing Agency, the forest cover in the country during the period 1980-82 was 46.34 million hectares.

(b) The position of forest cover in the country at the end of 1986 has not been assessed.

(c) Some of the factors that have led to the deplection/degradation of forest cover are grazing of forest land by the cattle population in excess of the carrying capacity, shifting cultivation, diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purpose, fires and illicit fellings.

Decline in exports of handloom products

475. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of handloom products have dwindled during the past few years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian handloom products have not attracted the taste and liking of the foreigners;

(c) whether Government have appointed a Committee to assess the requirements for the modernisation of the handloom industry; and

(d) whether the Committee has submitted its report; if so, what are the important recommendations made by the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The exports of cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups have not dwindled in the past few years. The exports of these items during 1986-87 are estimated to be slightly higher than in 1985-86.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Increase in support price of cotton

476. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have increased the support price of cotton by Rs. 10/- per quintal;

(b) whether Government have put restrictions on some States regarding payment on the basis of increased price;

(c) whether Government have directed the Maharashtra Government not to permit the Maharashtra Cotton Federation to make payment

it the rate of Rs. 612/- per quintal to he cotton growers;

(d) if so, what are the reasons herefor; and

(e) whether there has been a reat resentment amongst the cotton rowers on this issue?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Union Government announced on 3rd March, 987 the Minimum Support Price for lifferent varieties of cotton for the nsuing cotton season 1987-88. There s an average increase of Rs. 10 per quintal over the corresponding price being paid during the current cotton ear.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme being operated in the State of Maharashtra the armers are paid initially guaranteed prices which are the same as Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government of India for different varieties of cotton.

Hotel rooms occupied by the Executives of ITDC

477. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of hotel rooms at present occupied in each ITDC hotel for office purpose and also for residential purpose of ITDC executives;

(b) what is the hotelwise area occupied and the commercial tariff of the accommodation so occupied, separately for residential purpose and for office purpose;

(c) whether any of the officials who own houses are staying in ITDC hotels or corporation-leased accommodation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) ITDC presently operates 24 hotels with a capacity of 3514 rooms out of which 97 rooms are being used for office/residential purpose as per details given in Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 24.]

(c) and (d) Details are given at Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 25].

Assets of Officials of the ITDC

478. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC is assessing annually the assets of its officials engaged at sales outlets and in public dealings;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the officials engaged at sales outlets and on public dealing seats are rotated regularly after their service for more than three years at that particular place; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to transfer them periodically?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1978 of the Corporation as approved by the Board of Directors, every employee of the Corporation has to submit a return of asset and liabilities regarding immovable property and movable property inherited, owned acquired or held by him, if the value of such property exceeds Rs. 2,500/-.

(c) In order to avoid continuance of employees for indefinite periods of time in sensitive areas where Public/ Financial transaction are involved, a